

PRESS RELEASE

## EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2015

### POETRY OF THE METROPOLIS. THE AFFICHISTES

5 FEBRUARY – 25 MAY 2015

Whether early Pop artists, trailblazers of Street Art, or protagonists of a “natural poetry” of reality: in the 1950s, the “Affichistes” came forward with a complete new concept of the panel painting. On their rambles through the streets of postwar Paris, they collected fragments of ubiquitous, overlaid, often weathered and tattered posters and elevated the world of everyday urban life itself to the status of a painting. Their access to reality, as subversive as it was poetic, made them pioneers of a “New Realism”. The Schirn acknowledges the art of the “Affichistes” with an extensive exhibition, shining a light on its special role within the avant-garde of the 1950s and 1960s. A total of 150 exhibits will present the entire spectrum of the art of tearing off posters, from small fragments to enormous large formats, from abstract color formations to icons of Pop culture – supplemented by photographic, cinematic, and poetic experiments by the participating artists: François Dufrêne, Raymond Hains, Jacques Villeglé, as well as Mimmo Rotella and Wolf Vostell.

**Curators:** Esther Schlicht (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt) and Roland Wetzels (Museum Tinguely, Basel)

### ARTISTS AND PROPHETS.

### A SECRET HISTORY OF MODERN ART 1872-1972

6 MARCH – 14 JUNE 2015

Egon Schiele saw himself as a visionary and prophetic artist, František Kupka forged an abstract style of painting infused with spiritist principles, Joseph Beuys called for a revolution under the rubric of “social sculpture,” and Friedensreich Hundertwasser was an ecological crusader whose spiral paintings were holistic in essence. These pioneering artistic attitudes and developments would have not come about without contact with several so-called ‘prophets’. Some of these were artist-naturalists, others were modern-day Christs, while still others saw themselves as social revolutionaries of a kind. Their relevance for modern art remains a largely untold story. Today, their names—Karl Wilhelm Diefenbach, Gusto Gräser, Gustav Nagel, as well as Friedrich Muck-Lamberty and Ludwig Christian Haeusser—have almost been forgotten. During their lifetime, however, they were widely known among a broad-based public and in avant-garde circles. Artists and intellectuals also admired them, albeit often behind closed doors. The Schirn is presenting a large-scale exhibition on this theme with some 300 works by various artists. They include Egon Schiele, František Kupka, Johannes Baader, Heinrich Vogeler, Joseph Beuys, Jörg Immendorff, and Friedensreich Hundertwasser as well as a variety of documentation materials. The exhibition both reveals causalities and establishes unexpected connections. It also embeds the prophets and the artistic avant-garde in a wide-ranging social historical context.

**Curator:** Dr. Pamela Kort

## **ALICJA KWADE**

**26 MARCH – 14 JUNE 2015**

The quasi-scientific test arrangements by the Berlin-based artist Alicja Kwade are reminiscent of surreal and phantasmagorical constellations and objects. It cannot be ruled out that the artist, born in Poland, uses the association with her literary namesake ironically for the purpose of connecting the complex, philosophical poetry of the mathematician Lewis Carroll with her oeuvre. Many of Kwade's artistic works deal with the motif of the doppelgänger. Those who become involved with her work will not be able to explain it on their own. Its fascination lies in the skillful overlaying and occasional inconsistency of scientific and social realities. What is generally regarded as following a set pattern is called into question and refuted. In her most recent installation for the Schirn Rotunda, the artist deals with the actual movement of time which will have a direct impact on the space and on visitors alike.

**Curator:** Matthias Ulrich (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

## **DOUG AITKEN**

**9 JULY – 27 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Civilization raises hopes – civilization is terrifying. These feelings are palpable in the inimitable works of art by the American artist Doug Aitken. His spectacular film and sound works take visitors on a synaesthetic journey around the world and into themselves – in an irresistible maelstrom of expressive images and rhythmic landscapes. With four expansive film installations and correlating sculptures as well as a site-specific sound installation, the exhibition will present an overview of the internationally renowned artist's heterogeneous oeuvre throughout the entire exhibition area of the Schirn – and beyond. Aitken's kaleidoscopic universe revolves around life's existential questions, yet it does not supply any simple answers. Instead, the artist lends expression to an almost naïve fascination with being human and people's sense of collectivity and cooperation. Consequently, the recent projects by the Los Angeles-based artist have redefined the exhibition format and gained him worldwide attention, for instance through the illumination of the exterior walls of museums, like at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., or through an elaborately staged happening with the participation of various artists on the *Station to Station* train journey from New York to San Francisco lasting several weeks.

**Curator:** Matthias Ulrich (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

## **DANIEL RICHTER. HELLO, I LOVE YOU**

**9 OCTOBER 2015 – 17 JANUARY 2016**

Daniel Richter is one of most influential artists of his generation. His method consists in repeatedly questioning the possibilities of painting, for which he gives the following reason: "I don't believe in technique. For me, painting is a form of thinking, and I keep control over the things required for this form of thinking." For the artist, developing a continuously new, different pictorial language is like working against one's own routine. He set large-format, figurative pictures of the social reality around the year 2000 against the abstract, ornamental paintings produced in the mid-1990s, and in doing so transferred history painting into the present. By falling back on the current production of mass-media images without illustrating or commenting on the occurrences, he presents the crumbling of social utopias in a distinct, broken style. Besides Berlin, Paris, and Zurich, Richter has also exhibited in Los Angeles, New York and Vancouver. Remaining loyal to his method, his first solo exhibition in Frankfurt presents a concentrated selection of his most recent works in which he thinks about painting and paints thinking.

**Curator:** Katharina Dohm (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

## **STORM WOMEN.**

### **WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE AVANT-GARDE IN BERLIN**

**1910 – 1932**

**30 OCTOBER 2015 – 7 FEBRUARY 2016**

THE STORM (German: DER STURM) marked the emergence into modern art and an attempt to unite the international avant-garde. Originally founded in 1910 as a magazine for the promotion of Expressionist art, the name STURM quickly became a trademark: its editor, the writer and musician Herwarth Walden, established the STURM Academy, STURM soirées, a STURM stage, and the STURM Gallery, at which, among others, Marc Chagall, Franz Marc, Wassily Kandinsky, and Paul Klee exhibited their works. What is less well known, however, is that Walden also had great respect for female artists – around one fourth of the artists presented at his gallery were women. The Schirn devotes the first large-scale thematic exhibition to these STURM women. It will assemble more than 300 works of art by female artists of Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Constructivism, and New Objectivity. The result is a somewhat different overview of the most important art movements in Berlin in the early 20th century. Like their male counterparts at the time, works by some of these women artists were exhibited for the first time in Germany: among the most prominent are Sonia Delaunay, Alexandra Exter, Natalia Gontcharova, Else Lasker-Schüler, Gabriele Münter, and Marianne von Werefkin. They are joined by further female artists who have been unjustifiably forgotten, or have been neglected by the public. The exhibition at the Schirn will be the first extensive presentation of art by the STURM women, bringing it closer to a broader public.

**Curator:** Dr. Ingrid Pfeiffer (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

## **HEATHER PHILLIPSON**

**20 NOVEMBER 2015 – 7 FEBRUARY 2016**

For the first time in Germany, the internationally renowned artist and author Heather Phillipson will present a multimedia installation within the scope of a solo exhibition. Phillipson, who has already had successful shows in cities such as London, Paris, and Basel, will specifically develop a presentation for the Schirn's freely accessible Rotunda. Video plays a key role in her works, which she enhances with the use of photographs, objects, performance, sound, and voice to become installations for the purpose of addressing several senses simultaneously. As the recipient of numerous awards for her writing, Phillipson moreover uses language to counter the reputedly overwhelming power and complexity of digital image information. For her, it constitutes the starting point for possible new creations, both material as well as immaterial. The poetic interplay between language and image gives rise to a new look at the objects that surround people and have an impact on their everyday lives. Phillipson relies on the artist principle of combination, which allows her to produce contemporary disguises of a real and virtual reality.

**Curator:** Matthias Ulrich (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

## **DOUBLE FEATURE**

**THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 P.M., FREE ENTRY  
VIEW THE CURRENT PROGRAM AT [WWW.SCHIRN.DE](http://WWW.SCHIRN.DE)**

For two years now, the Schirn has served as a forum for national and international film and video artists. On the last Wednesday of each month, it presents their current productions under the motto "Double Feature," followed by a favorite film of their choice. The artists provide deeper insight into their works, particularly into their cinematic interest, in conversations with the curators. In the course of digitization and technical simplification, films are increasingly being used as an independent art form. As elements of multimedia installations they have become a major part of contemporary art. "Double Feature" sees itself as a platform for a variety of different tendencies and forms of expression in artistic film production as well as a forum for comparing well known and less known positions. Previous participants have included, for example, Nevin Aladağ, Ulla von Brandenburg, Anri Sala, Ed Atkins, and Keren Cytter. In 2015, the Schirn again invites the public to attend "Double Feature". As usual, the works are not screened in the exhibition spaces, but in a cinema designed by the Frankfurt-based artist Michael Riedel specifically for the series. Among other things, the audience can expect contributions by the artist and musician Luke Fowler, nominated for the Turner Prize in 2012, by artists Marine Hugonnier and Loretta Fahrenholz, and by Camille Henrot, who was awarded the Silver Lion at the 55th Biennale di Venezia.

**Curators:** Katharina Dohm, Katharina Knacker, Matthias Ulrich (Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt)

**DIGITAL ART ZONE. ART ON THE INTERNET.  
BRITTA THIE AND CONSTANT DULLAART  
SOON AT WWW.SCHIRN.DE**

Digital space – the final frontier. For the first time, in 2015 the Schirn will present art that would have been inconceivable without the invention of the Internet and digital technologies. The Internet and its rapidly growing possibilities not only change people's lifeworlds, they also affect the current production of art. Artists avail themselves of the instruments, phenomena, and techniques of digital society, giving rise to new, unknown, and unusual things. The Net, digital space, precisely that place at which a substantial part of life now takes place, serves as a stage. With the Berlin-based artist Britta Thie and the Dutch artist Constant Dullaart, the Schirn will show two positions that exemplify the vitality and creativity of this art. In a multipart Web series, Britta Thie, a former student in Hito Steyerl's master class at the Berlin University of the Arts, pursues the question of what life means in the digital age. She examines the impact of social media and applications such as Facebook, Messenger apps, and Smartphones on human emotions and behavior. Constant Dullaart examines the concept of the Internet as a free, boundless sphere of activity with anthropological interest and a critical eye. He uses interventions to expose this notion as utopia and illustrates the extent to which digital technologies filter and distort our perception of the world. He is developing a new work for the Schirn presentation.

**Co-ordination:** Fabian Famulok

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**OPENING HOURS OF THE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE: TUESDAY, FRIDAY–SUNDAY 10:00  
A.M.–7:00 P.M., MONDAY AND THURSDAY 10:00 A.M.–10:00 P.M.**

**RELEVANT TEXTS, IMAGES AND FILMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM  
WWW.SCHIRN.DE/EN UNDER "PRESS".**

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